

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4227  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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DEPT PASS ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: XA, JA, PFOR  
SUBJECT: JAPANESE AMBASSADORS' CONFERENCE ON AFRICA

SUMMARY: JAPAN'S AFRICAN CHIEFS OF MISSION DECEMBER 1-3  
(A) URGED GOJ TO DISCOURAGE "CONSPICUOUS BUSINESS VENTURES" IN  
SOUTH AFRICA WHILE GIVING FOOD AND MEDICAL AID TO "EMANCIPATION  
MOVEMENTS" IN SOUTHERN AFRICA; (B) CONCLUDED THAT HAPPY END TO  
GENEVA TALKS ON ZIMBAWE FAR FROM SURE AND (C) PONDERED WAYS OF  
IMPROVING WORKING CONDITIONS, ESPECIALLY IN WEST AFRICA. FONOFF  
APPARENTLY MIFFED BY UK RELUCTANCE TO SHARE ITS ASSESSMENT OF  
GENEVA TALKS WITH JAPAN. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPAN'S SIXTEEN AMBASSADORS IN AFRICA AND ITS CONSUL GENERAL  
IN PRETORIA GATHERED IN LONDON DECEMBER 1-3 FOR R&R AND ANNUAL  
REVIEW OF AFRICA POLICY WITH FONOFF MANAGERS. FONOFF GROUP WAS  
LED BY TOP FONOFF ADMINISTRATOR, DEPUTY VICE MINISTER NOBUO  
MATSUNAGA, AND BY DIRGEN FOR MIDEAST AND AFRICA HIDEO KAGAMI.  
AMBASSADOR TO UN ISAO ABE SAT IN.

2. ACCORDING TO MOFA AFRICA DEPDIVDIR ZENJI KAMINAGA, ALSO  
PRESENT, POLICY DISCUSSION CENTERED ON HOW BEST TO SUSTAIN  
PROFITABLE TRADE RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA WHILE ACCOMMODAT-  
ING BLACK AFRICAN NATIONALISM AND FOSTERING TRADE LINKS THROUGH-  
OUT CONTINENT. JAPANESE TWO-WAY TRADE WITH ALL AFRICA WAS 6.6  
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BILLION DOLLARS IN 1975, OR 4.1 BILLION DOLLARS IF EXPORT OF

SHIPS TO LIBERIA EXCEPTED. OF THIS, 1.7 BILLION DOLLARS WAS WELL-BALANCED TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

3. KAMINAGA SAID AMBASSADORS JUDGED THAT JAPAN HAD BEEN NEEDLESSLY APOLOGETIC ABOUT COMMERCIAL LINKS TO SOUTH AFRICA, AND SHOULD "POSITIVELY EXPLAIN THEIR NECESSITY." AT SAME TIME, AMBASSADORS ENDORSED GOJ POLICY OF RESTRAINING CREDITS TO SOUTH AFRICA (WE WERE TOLD THAT GOJ CURRENTLY REFUSES TO UNDERWRITE BIG PROJECTS OR PLANT EXPORTS). THEY AGREED THAT GOJ SHOULD DISCOURAGE ANY "CONSPICUOUS JAPANESE VENTURES" THERE, WHETHER OR NOT OFFICIALLY-GUARANTEED FINANCING WAS INVOLVED. AMBASSADORS ALSO URGED JAPAN AID SOUTHERN AFRICA "EMANCIPATION

MOVEMENTS" (IMZR,ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA) WITH FOOD AND MEDICINES.

4. AMBASSADORS, KAMINAGA SAID, REACHED CONSENSUS OF SORTS THAT GENEVA TALKS ON RHODESIA WOULD PROBABLY SUCCEED, BUT MANY DOUBTED AGREEMENT WOULD BE VIABLE. LATTER GROUP PREDICTED BLACK LEADERS COULD NOT MAINTAIN UNITY. AMBASSADORS THOUGHT ATTITUDE OF UK, POLICIES OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION, AND INTENTIONS OF FRONTLINE STATES KEYS TO SITUATION, BUT IMPOSSIBLE TO DEDUCE WITH CONFIDENCE.

5. DIRGEN KAGAMI STOPPED IN GENEVA ENROUTE TO LONDON FOR TALKS WITH UK NEGOTIATORS. THERE, KAMINAGA INTIMATED, KAGAMI WAS ABLE TO LEARN VERY LITTLE. THIS SEEMS TO HAVE FORTIFIED JAPANESE SUSPICION THAT -- IF WE UNDERSTOOD KAMINAGA CORRECTLY -- BRITISH MIGHT BE ALMOST AS SATISFIED BY AN OUTCOME AT GENEVA WHICH SATISFIED WORLD THAT UK HAD DONE ITS BEST TO NO AVAIL, AND PERMITTED THEM TO TURN RHODESIA IMPASSE OVER TO "CONFERENCE OF CONCERNED COUNTRIES."

6. KAMINAGA SAID THAT GOJ PREFERRED THAT BRITISH TAKE "REAL RESPONSIBILITY." THIS WOULD INCLUDE NOT ONLY ACCOMPLISHMENT OF ACCORD BETWEEN WHITES AND BLACKS, BUT ALSO SUCCESSFUL MOVE IN UN TO SECURE LIFTING OF RHODESIAN SANCTIONS. HE SAID THAT GOJ HAD LEFT BRITISH KNOW THAT UN "AFFIRMATIVE ACTION" NECESSARY BEFORE JAPAN IN POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE YEN TO TRANSITION FUND.

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7. UK EMBASSY HAS ALSO HEARD THAT KAGAMI'S RECEPTION IN GENEVA OFFENDED JAPANESE. BRITISH HERE UNDERSTOOD, AND WILL REPORT TO FCO, THAT JAPANESE REGARD FRANK BRIEFINGS ON RHODESIA NEGOTIATIONS AS A SINE QUA NON FOR GOJ PARTICIPATION IN TRANSITION FUND.

8. ABOUT HALF OF AMBASSADORS' AGENDA WAS ADMINISTRATIVE, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO IMPROVEMENT OF WORKING CONDITIONS FOR

STAFFS OF EMBASSIES IN WEST AFRICA.

HODGSON

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

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## Message Attributes

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**URGED GOJ TO DISCOURAGE "CONSPICUOUS BUSINESS"**  
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